

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10367 141628Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /075 W

----- 067530

R 141506Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5805

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, EG, SY

SUBJECT: AUGUST 15 MEETING OF PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL: SHARP DEBATE
OVER EGYPTIAN POLICY FORESEEN

REF: BEIRUT 10265

1. THERE IS SPECULATION HERE THAT THE MEETING OF THE PLO
CENTRAL COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR AUG 15 IN DAMASCUS MAY TURN
INTO A BITTER DEBATE BETWEEN FATAH HARD-LINERS WHO SUSPECT
AN EGYPTIAN "SELL-OUT" IN SINAI AND MORE MODERATE PLO
LEADERS WHO MAY SHARE MISGIVINGS BUT WISH TO KEEP STRATEGIC
LINES OPEN TO CAIRO. THIS WAS A CENTRAL THEME OF A FRONT-PAGE
ARTICLE IN THE AUG 14 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" AND WAS
ECHOED IN SEVERAL LEFTIST ARABIC-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS SAME
DAY DENOUNCING THE PROJECTED SINAI AGREEMENT. THE
OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR THE CENTRAL COUNCIL'S MEETING, I.E.,
SETTING A DATE FOR AND POSSIBLE EXPANDING THE PALESTINE
NATIONAL COUNCIL (REFTEL), MAY BECOME SUBMERGED IN THIS
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 10367 141628Z

ARGUMENT. HOWEVER, SOURCES HERE BELIEVE THE CONVENING

OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL IN FACT BE DISCUSSED AND FIXED
FOR LATE THIS YEAR.

2. A MODERATE LEBANESE JOURNALIST WITH GOOD PALESTINIAN
CONTACTS TOLD EMBOFFS AUG 14 THAT, IN HIS VIEW, PLO AS A
WHOLE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY RADICAL AND ANTI-EGYPT IN
FACE OF SADAT'S MODERATE STAND ON ISRAELI EXPULSION ISSUE,
WHICH DEAR TO PLO, AND EMERGIN SINAI SETTLEMENT THAT
CONTAINS NOTHING VISIBLE FOR PALESTINIANS. HE BELIEVED,
HOWEVER, THAT THIS TREND WITHIN PLO WILL BE SLOW IN MATUR-
ING. AT PRESENT, HE ADDED, SYRIA HOLDS THE KEY TO PLO
ATTITUDE, BECAUSE OF FEDAYEEN LOGISTICAL RELIANCE ON SYRIA
AND FIRM SAIQA CONNECTION TO DAMASCUS. SYRIA HAS NOT YET
REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST SADAT'S TACTICS, EITHER BECAUSE
OF ASSURANCES HE HAS GIVEN THEM OR BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN
WAIT-AND-SEE POLICY RE SINAI'S RELATION TO GOLAN.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT10367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750281-0696
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750850/aaaabrqx.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 10265
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST 15 MEETING OF PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL: SHARP DEBATE OVER EGYPTIAN POLICY FORESEEN
TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006